

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 IGA-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /105 W
-----057640 191406Z /43

R 191245Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7851
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 0201

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, AG, IV, FR, XA, XG
SUBJ: SIGNIFICANCE OF EUROPE-AFRICA SOLIDARITY PACT PROPOSED BY
GISCARD D'ESTAING

1. SUMMARY: GOA MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RELATIONS CALLS AMBASSADOR HAYNES IN FOR "INFORMAL DISCUSSION" OF GOA CONCERNS OVER (A) STRATEGY FOR MINIMIZING OUR DIFFERENCES OF POLICY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, (B) EUROPE-AFRICA SOLIDARITY PACT PROPOSED BY GISCARD D'ESTAING IN ABIDJAN AND (C) AFRICAN AID FUND ALSO PROPOSED BY GISCARD IN ABIDJAN AND REPORTEDLY ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ABDELMADJID FASLA, CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE ON JANUARY 18 FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AN "INFORMAL DISCUSSION" OF SOME OF THE MULTILATERAL POLICY CONCERNS OF THE GOA.

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3. FASLA QUICKLY GLOSSED OVER A BRIEF SHOPPING LIST OF ISSUES BEFORE THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE WANTED THE USG TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS THE CONSTANT DESIRE OF THE GOA TO AVOID OPEN CONFLICT WITH US IN PUBLIC FORUMS. THEREFORE, HE URGED THAT WE ADOPT THE PRACTICE OF HOLDING FRANK EXCHANGES ON OUR RESPECTIVE POLICY POSITIONS PRIOR TO STATING THEM IN PUBLIC. I TOLD

FASLA THAT I DID NOT THINK IT EITHER PRACTICAL OR APPROPRIATE TO ESTABLISH SUCH A GROUND RULE ON ALL MATTERS OF INTEREST TO OUR ESP-ECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, I SAID THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, IT WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO APPLY TO THOSE MAJOR POLICY ISSUES WHERE OUR DIFFERENCES OF VIEW POINT WERE BASIC AND PREDICTABLE. HE AGREED WITH MY QUALIFICATION OF HIS PROPOSAL WHICH I PROMISED TO TRANSMIT TO MY GOVERNMENT.

4. FASLA THEN CAME TO THE MAIN POINT OF OUR INFORMAL DISCUSSION WHICH WAS TO EXPRESS THE CONCERN OF THE GOA OVER GISCARD D'ESTAING'S EXPRESSION (IN THE COURSE OF HIS RECENT STATE VISIT TO THE IVORY COAST) OF CONVICTION THAT THE SOLIDARITY PACT BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA WHICH HE PROPOSED LAST APRIL WOULD SOON BE REALIZED. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE INCLUDED THE SUBJECT OF THIS SOLIDARITY PACT IN HIS TALKS WITH HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY.

5. I ASKED FASLA WHETHER THE GOA HAD RECEIVED ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE PACT. HE REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT AND THAT THIS MAJOR SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON IT CAME FROM A REFERENCE TO IT MADE IN "LE MONDE" OF JANUARY 14, 1978. INDEED, HE SAID, ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF CALLING ME IN WAS TO SEE WHETHER THE USG HAD OBTAINED ANY DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SOLIDARITY PACT DURING RECENT VISIT TO FRANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER. I ASKED HIM, IN TURN, IF THE GOA, AS AN INTERESTED "AFRICAN NATION", HAD NOT APPROACHED THE GOF DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER DETAILS. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT DONE SO IN VIEW OF THE POOR STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
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ALGERIA AND FRANCE. HOWEVER, FASLA IMPLIED THAT THE MFA WOULD BE CALLING IN THE EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN AMBASSADORS FOR SIMILAR "INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS" ON THIS SUBJECT. (I DID, IN FACT, MEET THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN THE WAITING ROOM AT THE MFA.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 0201

6. AMONG THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THE GOA HAS ABOUT THE PACT ARE:

A) IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PACT MILITARY OR ECONOMIC OR BOTH? IF IT IS MILITARY, FASLA STRESSED THE LONG-STANDING AND FIRM GOA OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN BASES IN AFRICA.

B) IS THE PACT A COLLECTIVE WESTERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED BY FRANCE WITH USG BLESSING?

C) WHAT IS USG REACTION TO THE PACT?
I TOLD FASLA THAT I COULD NOT ANSWER ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS BUT THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT THEM TO MAY GOVERNMENT.

7. IN THE CORSE OF THE SAME VISIT TO THE IVORY COAST, GISCARD IS REPORTED (SEE "LE MONDE" ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 5 ABOVE) TO HAVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN PARIS THE CREATION OF AN AID FUND FOR AFRICA. THE IDEA OF THIS FUND IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GROWN OUT OF A FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN DAKAR LAST APRIL. "LE MONDE" REPORTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S REACTION TO THE FUND PORPOSAL AS "POSITIVE". FASLA EXPRESSED TO ME THE GOA'S CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERN ABOUT SUCH A FUND. HE ASKED WHETHER I COULD TELL HIM WHAT KIND OF FUND WAS ENVISAGED AND WHETHER (AND HOW) THE US WOULD PARTICIPATE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOA WAS "SURPRISED" AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITIVE FEELINGS ABOUT SUCH A FUND, -- IF THOSE FEELINGS WERE CORRECTLY REPORTED, -- GIVEN THE GOA UNDERSTANDING OF THE USG POSITION AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF SUCH AID FUNDS. AGAIN, I ASKED WHETHER THE GOA HAD PUT ITS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUND TO THE GOF. AGAIN, FASLA REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT. I PROMISED TO SEE WHETHER I COULD OBTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

8. COMMENT. THIS "INFORMAL DISCUSSION" IS AGAIN FURTHER INDICATION OF THE STATE OF NERVES AT HIGH LEVELS OF THE GOA OVER THEIR DETERIORATED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. NATIONAL PRIDE PREVENTS THEM FROM GOING DIRECTLY TO THE GOF FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSED SOLIDARITY PACT AND AID FUND. THEREFORE, THEY ARE REDUCED TO SEEKING INFORMATION FROM INTERMEDIARIES. I DO NOT PROPOSE THAT WE GET OURSELVES IN THE POSITION OF ACTING AS SUCH AN INTERMEDIARY AND, THEREFORE,

RECOMMEND AGAINST PROVIDING THE GOA WITH ANY INFORMATION WE MAY
HAVE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR OUR OWN BACKGROUND PURPOSES
IF THE ADDRESSEE POSTS COULD SHARE WITH THIS POST ANY INFORMATION
OR INSIGHTS WHICH WOULD HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE GOF OBJECTIVES IN
MAKING THESE PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME.HAYNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ALGIER00201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780028-0972
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780147/aaaabnmm.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61f23be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3750877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIGNIFICANCE OF EUROPE-AFRICA SOLIDARITY PACT PROPOSED BY GISCARD D'ESTAING
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, AG, IV, FR, XA, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61f23be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014